LAB 2 Laboratory Activity

# Classification

If you were asked to classify objects, you would probably group together those objects that have a certain characteristic in common. A scientist does the same thing when grouping or classifying living things. Living things are grouped according to certain likenesses or similar characteristics. Each group may then be divided into subgroups. Each group and subgroup is given a name to help simplify the scientist's work.

## Strategy

You will classify paper shapes.
You will use the words *kingdom*, *phylum*, and *class* in your classifying system.
You will determine what characteristics you are using to make your classification.

## Materials

paper (2 sheets)
scissors

## Procedure

1. Cut out the 13 shapes shown in Figure 1. **CAUTION**: *Always be careful when using scissors.*
2. Place shapes 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 into one group. This will represent the first kingdom. Place these shapes on a separate piece of notebook paper.
3. Place shapes 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, and 13 into a second group, or second kingdom. Place these shapes on a separate piece of notebook paper.
4. Keep the kingdom shapes on the same paper. Further separate them into smaller groups. Place shapes 3, 4, 7 and 10 into one group. This will represent the first phylum.
5. Place shapes 6 and 9 into another group. This will be the second phylum.
6. Place shape 11 by itself for the third phylum.
7. The phyla may be further subdivided by writing an identification letter on each one. Each subgroup will represent a class. On shapes 3, 4, and 7 write the letter A.
8. On shape 10 write the letter B

## Questions and Conclusions

1. How do members of the first kingdom differ from the members of the second kingdom?

2. What two names would you suggest to describe the characteristics common to the two kingdoms?

## Laboratory Activity 2 (continued)

**3.** What characteristics do shapes 3, 4, 7, and 10 have that make them different from 6, 9, or 11?

**4.** How are 6 and 9 different from 11?

**5.** If you had to use a name to describe the characteristics common to members of the first phylum, what would be a suitable name?

What name would best describe the second phylum?

The third phylum?

**6.** On the class level, what characteristics do shapes 3, 4, and 7 have that make them different from 10?

**7.** What would best describe the class for shapes 3, 4, and 7?

For 10?

## Strategy Check

_____ Can you classify paper shapes into large and smaller groups based on similar characteristics?

_____ Can you name the groups using descriptive terms?

## Laboratory Activity 2 (continued)

### Figure 1